

**REMARKS**

Claim 5 has been amended to recite the purification method of “a step (A)” or both “step (A) and a step (B).” Claim 8 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 1-4 have been canceled. No new matter has been added. Upon entry of this Amendment, which is respectfully requested, Claims 5-9 will be pending.

Claims 1 and 4 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chakraborti et al (Tetrahedron, 2003, 59, pages 7661-7668).

Without admitting that this rejection is appropriate, Claims 1 and 4 have been canceled. Thus, this rejection is now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection based on Chakraborti is respectfully requested.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,959,278 to Wood.

Additionally, Claims 1-5, 8 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood in view of CSJ (The Chemical Society of Japan, 1992, Dai 4 pan Jikken Kagaku Koza 22, Yuki Gosei IV San • Amino San • Peptide-, Maruzen Co., Ltd., pages 50-51).

Applicants respectfully traverse.

Wood does not disclose or suggest purification of prenyl acetate using an aqueous solution of an alkali metal hydrogen sulfite. Further, Wood does not disclose or suggest purification of prenyl acetate using an aqueous solution of an alkali metal hydrogen sulfite and using an aqueous solution of a base. Thus, Wood fails to anticipate or render obvious the present Claim 5, and CSJ does not rectify these deficiencies. Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.


Respectfully submitted,

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